

# **THE HEALTH OF HITCHIN**

1972





HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members as at 31st December, 1972

Chairman of the Council

vacant

Vice-Chairman

Councillor Slackman

Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee

Councillor Ballantyne

Mrs. A. E. Carss

W. L. Thomson

J. H. Goldsmith

L. J. Ford

D. J. Hill

C. H. Rowe

M. B. Hunt

Medical Officer of Health

James D. Hall, M.R.C.S., (Eng) L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector

N. Holt, F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

H. Forrest, M.A.P.H.I.



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## P R E F A C E

Public Health Department,  
Brand Street,  
HITCHIN.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hitchin Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1972.

The population of Hitchin again increased during 1972 largely due to movement into the town. The birth rate was higher than the remainder of England and Wales and the county as a whole.

The infant mortality rate - deaths under 1 year per thousand population - dropped considerably and this year was well below that of the county as a whole and the remainder of England and Wales.

The total number of deaths from all causes increased very slightly on the previous year but the death rate itself was lower than the rest of England and Wales, and slightly lower than the remainder of the county. The commonest cause of death was again diseases of the heart and blood vessels but again a slight increase was shown in the number of deaths from cancer compared with the previous year. No deaths occurred from tuberculosis.

There were no serious outbreaks of epidemic disease and the public health of Hitchin is most satisfactory.

I would like to express my thanks to all the public health and health and welfare staff in Hitchin Urban, including those concerned with administration, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. HALL

Medical Officer of Health

Divisional Health Office,  
Bedford Road,  
Hitchin,  
Hertfordshire.

Telephone No. 50411

SECTION 'A'

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	3,867
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population Mid-1972	29,110
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1972 (estimated)	9,733
Rateable Value	£4,652,873
Net Product of 1p. rate	£47,100

b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population for mid 1972 reveal an overall increase of 440. Natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths for the year was 145.

HITCHIN VITAL STATISTICS 1972

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Total	251	242	493
Legitimate	229	226	455
Illegitimate	22	16	38
Live Birth Rate (Uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	16.9
Live Birth Rate (Corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	16.4
Illegitimate Live Births percentage of total live births	-	-	8.0
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Total	3	3	6
Rate of 1,000 live and still births	-	-	12.0
Total live and still births	254	245	400
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total	3	2	5
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	10
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	26
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	8
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	8
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	-	-	20
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION</u>			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>	149	199	348
Death Rate (Uncorrected)	-	-	12.0
Death Rate (Corrected)	-	-	10.3
Natural increase of population	-	-	145
Overall increase of population	-	-	440



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1972

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	3	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	5	8	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	13	6	19
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-	2
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	7	11	18
Diabetes Mellitus	3	1	4
Avitaminoses, etc.	-	1	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1
Anaemias	-	1	1
Multiple Sclerosis	-	2	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	-	3	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	37	25	62
Other forms of Heart Disease	6	17	23
Cerebrovascular Disease	20	49	69
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	5	10
Pneumonia	14	16	30
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	-	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	-	2	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	2	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-	2
Symptoms of Ill Defined Conditions	7	16	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	-	4
All other Accidents	5	11	16
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	1	3
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>348</b>

<u>DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	3	2	5
1 - 4 years	-	1	1
5 - 14 years	-	1	1
15 - 24 years	3	3	6
25 - 34 years	2	1	3
35 - 44 years	3	1	4
45 - 54 years	11	5	16
55 - 64 years	22	15	37
65 - 74 years	33	34	67
75 and over	72	136	208
<b>All Causes</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>348</b>

POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1972 HITCHIN U.D.C.	North Hertford- shire Division	Hertford- shire	England and Wales
Population	29,110	171,490	940,630	49,028,900
Live Births (Crude)	16.9	15.4	14.3	14.8
Live Births (Corrected)	16.4		14.0	14.8
Death Rate - All causes, Crude	12.0	8.5	9.5	12.1
Death Rate - All causes, Corrected	10.3		10.5	12.1
Infective and Parasitic Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis, but including Syphillis and other V.D.	0.00	.01	0.04	*
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	0.00	0.00		
Other Forms	0.00	0.00	0.01	
Cancer:   Lung and Bronchs.	0.65	0.50	) 2.06	
Other	1.78	1.30	)	
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	2.37	1.20	1.33	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	3.43	2.88	2.80	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.20	1.10	1.43	
Maternal Mortality	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Infantile Mortality	10.0	16.9	13.4	17.2
Neo Natal Mortality	8.0	11.7	9.1	11.5
Early Neo Natal Mortality	8.0	10.5	8.0	9.8
Perinatal Mortality	20.0	22.7	19.6	21.7
Still-Births	12.0	12.3	11.8	12.0

\* Not available



SECTION 'B'

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES - HITCHIN

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN - SECTION 22

Ante-Natal Booking Clinics

Attendance:

<u>Clinic</u>	No. of Patients who attended 1972	No. of attendances 1972
Hitchin: G.P. Surgeries	129	542

Ante-Natal Instruction Classes

<u>Clinic</u>	No. of attendances 1972
Hitchin	29

Family Planning Clinic

Sessions:

<u>Hitchin</u> - Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road	Tuesday afternoon Wednesday evening Thursday morning
<u>Letchworth</u> - Health Centre, Nevels Road	Monday evening
<u>Stevenage</u> - Trotts Hill Clinic	Monday morning Tuesday afternoon Friday morning
Peartree Health Annexe	Wednesday morning
Lodge Farm Health Annexe	Thursday morning
County Health Centre, Southgate	Thursday evening

1972

	No. of New Patients	Total No. of Attendances
HITCHIN	347	3,568
LETCHWORTH	190	1,700
STEVENAGE	759	6,640

Infant Welfare Clinics

County Health Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin	Monday & Friday 2-4 p.m. Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr. J. Whalley Health Visitors
Community Centre, Walsworth	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr. S. Davies
Oakfield Estate, Hitchin (Mobile)	2nd Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 noon 4th Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Dr. K. Bayles Health Visitor

Clinic	Children Born in 1972	Children Born in 1971	Children Born in 1967-70	No. Attend- ances
Hitchin	511	664	843	7,408

CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT UNIT

Children born in	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968 and over
Hitchin	6	12	21	25	69

Premature Infants

A premature infant is one which weighs  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth.

PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1972

District	Born Alive			Still-Birth			No. Removed to Hosp. after Birth	Died under 28 days			No. who survived 28 days		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total	Born at Home	Born in Hosp.	Total
Hitchin	3	27 + 3 twins	36	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	3	33	36

MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY - HITCHIN

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers	1,330
Home Conditions Reports for Hospitals	207
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	173
Deliveries - Home	69
Hospital Deliveries	406
Total - Live and Stillbirths	490
Early Hospital Discharge - 48 hours	60

HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24 - HITCHIN

Health Visiting

Child Health	Visits	7,318
Elderly	Visits	294
Others	Visits	708
School Inspection	Sessions	182
Maternity & Child Health	Sessions	410

HOME NURSING - SECTION 25 - HITCHIN

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1972. It will be seen that they made 14,721 visits to 608 patients.

HOME NURSING

<u>Classification</u>	<u>No. of cases attended</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Medical	438	11,310
Surgical	164	3,248
Tuberculosis	1	20
Others	5	143
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	608	14,721
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AMBULANCE SERVICE - SECTION 27 - NORTH HERTS

Number of patients conveyed	69,081
Number of Journeys	30,853
Total Mileage	458,555

Details of Journeys

Accidents	1,601
Sudden Illness	784
Removals	65,953
Maternity	743

The divisional area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St. George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr. J. Sweetman who has kindly supplied the above statistics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE - SECTION 28

The Medical Loan Service continues to be delegated to the British Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance and these organisations play a large part in providing equipment and aids to the ill and handicapped at home. For this voluntary service I should like to express my thanks.

CHEST CLINIC

Health Visiting:

Tuberculosis Households - Visits	264
B.C.G. Follow-up - Visits	46
Contacts - Visits	120
Non-Tuberculosis - Visits	140
New Cases	17
Contacts of New Cases	79
Heaf Negative	56

The incidence of tuberculosis continued at a low level in this area.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Number of New Cases in 1972

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL ALL VENEREAL CONDITIONS</u>
Lister Hospital, Hitchin	221	142	363

The return from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, has been omitted since it refers to the whole of the geographical county of Hertfordshire. These figures, are, therefore, deficient by an unknown number in addition to the deficiencies caused by the treatment of patients from this area in London and elsewhere.



CLINIC	No. of First Attendances	No. of Subsequent Attendances	% of Pop. at risk Attending	Negative	Further Investigation Recommended	Results of Tests with Inflammation				Other Findings
						Non-Specific	Trichomonas	Candida	Viral	
HITCHIN	205	342	i) 3 ii) 4	468	-	218	11	23	-	-
LETCHEWORTH	56	166	i) 3 ii) 3	195	1	117	4	1	-	2
STEVENAGE	419	421	i) 8 ii) 11	849	6	354	30	24	1	-
ROYSTON	40	55	i) 0.53 ii) 2	95	-	94	-	1	7	7

CYTOLOGY CLINIC

"WELL WOMAN" CLINIC - JANUARY 1972

Hitchin	-	Every Wednesday a.m.
Letchworth	-	1st and 3rd Tuesdays a.m.
Stevenage	-	Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m.
Royston	-	Every third Wednesday in the month a.m.

From a total of 720 no positives were discovered



Cervical Cytology continued:

i) Aged 20 and over

ii) Aged 30 and over

Population at Risk Women (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient).

Baldock U.D.	i) 2,080	ii) 1,740	Royston U.D.	i) 2,260	ii) 1,860
Hitchin U.D.	i) 9,540	ii) 7,900	Stevenage U.D.	i) 16,200	ii) 12,350
Letchworth U.D.	i) 9,480	ii) 7,950	Hitchin R.D.	i) 8,560	ii) 7,200
TOTAL AT RISK			i) 48,120	ii) 39,000	

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order, or in emergency on an Order signed by two medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1972.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

TABLE I HITCHIN URBAN

Inspection of School Children 1972

Entrants	409
Secondary selective and consultative	201
Number of special inspections	172
Number of re-inspections	572

Physical condition of Pupils inspected

Satisfactory	1354
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TABLE II

B.C.G. Vaccination - 11 years and absentees from other sessions

Number of children offered testing and vaccination if necessary	558
Number of acceptances	535
Percentages of acceptances	95%

Pre-Vaccination Tuberculin Test:

Number tested	523
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Result of Test:

Number positive	35	13 Children already known to have received B.C.G. Vacc.
Number negative	469	
Number not ascertained	19	
Percentage positive	4.2%	
Percentage negative	95.8%	
Number vaccinated	469	

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The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr. C.G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth - Consultant Geriatrician and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Dr. Roper has played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to her also.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addenbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridge Hospitals.

#### GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin

Lister Hospital, Hitchin

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

#### MENTAL HOSPITAL

Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold.

#### MATERNITY HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin

#### CHEST CLINIC

Lister Hospital, Hitchin

### LABORATORY SERVICES

Dr. A.T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds.

Dr. G.R.E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1972

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED  
DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1972

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

GENERAL SANITATION

Drainage .. .. .	300
Pet shops .. .. .	3
Caravan sites and gypsies .. .. .	53
Factories .. .. .	49
Refuse and salvage collection .. .. .	236
Refuse disposal .. .. .	96
Rats and mice .. .. .	77
Smoke (other visits etc.) .. .. .	78
Boiler plants .. .. .	4
Noise .. .. .	47
Shops, offices, etc. .. .. .	393
Petroleum installations .. .. .	86
Swimming pools .. .. .	11
Water supply .. .. .	2
Miscellaneous .. .. .	1589

HOUSING

Under Public Health Acts:

Number of houses inspected .. .. .	90
Visits paid to houses .. .. .	229

Under Housing Acts:

Number of houses inspected and recorded .. .. .	3
Visits paid to houses .. .. .	7

Houses in Multiple Occupation:

Number of houses inspected .. .. .	15
Visits paid to houses .. .. .	359

cont'd....

HOUSING (cont'd.)

Improvement Grants:

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	80
Visits paid to houses	..	..	..	..	472

NOTICES SERVED

Number of informal notices served	..	..	..	44
Number of informal notices complied with	..	..	..	30
Number of statutory notices served	..	..	..	28
Number of statutory notices complied with	..	..	..	20

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Enquiries in cases of infectious disease	..	..	5
Enquiries in cases of food poisoning	..	..	4
Other visits re food poisoning enquiries	..	..	4

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Inspection of meat:

Visits to shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
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Food Inspection:

Visits to shops and stalls	..	..	..	..	94
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Visits to:

Butchers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Fishmongers and poulterers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Food preparing premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68
Grocers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	146
Greengrocers and fruiterers	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Bakehouses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	21

cont'd....



# MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd.)

## Visits to:

Markets .. .. .	180
Restaurants .. .. .	112
School and factory canteens, etc. .. .. .	14
Street vendors and hawkers' carts .. .. .	86
Licensed premises .. .. .	10
Confectioners .. .. .	10

## Visits in connection with sampling (bacteriological):

Milk .. .. .	16
Ice-cream.. .. .	26

## IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT TO HOUSES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

### Structure:

Roofs repaired .. .. .	5
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired.. .. .	7
Chimney pots provided .. .. .	1
Flashings repaired or replaced .. .. .	5
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed .. .. .	4
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed .. .. .	3
Roof timbers repaired or replaced .. .. .	3
Walls pointed or repaired .. .. .	3
Walls cement rendered .. .. .	2
Windows repaired .. .. .	2
Windows provided or replaced .. .. .	15
Window sashcords provided .. .. .	4
Window fasteners provided .. .. .	3
Windows made to open .. .. .	5
Doors provided or replaced (external) .. .. .	11
Doors provided or replaced (internal) .. .. .	19
Doors repaired. (internal) .. .. .	2
Door furniture provided.. .. .	3
Doorsteps provided or repaired .. .. .	2
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired .. .. .	2
New yard surfaces provided .. .. .	1
Ceilings where plaster, etc. repaired or replaced .. .. .	13
Floors relaid or repaired .. .. .	15
Skirting boards repaired or replaced .. .. .	4
Staircases repaired .. .. .	3
Handrails provided .. .. .	1
Rooms where dampness remedied .. .. .	15
New sinks provided .. .. .	13

cont'd.....

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT TO HOUSES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF  
THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Structure: (cont'd.)

Trapped sink waste pipes provided.. ..	13
New washbasins provided .. ..	16
Trapped washbasin wastepipes provided .. ..	16
New baths provided .. ..	15
Trapped bath waste pipes provided.. ..	15
Rooms where wallplaster, etc., repaired or replaced	20
Water service pipes repaired.. ..	3
Hot water systems provided .. ..	20
Houses painted externally .. ..	4

Drainage:

Drains cleansed .. ..	9
New drains constructed .. ..	12
Old drains reconstructed .. ..	10
Drains repaired .. ..	4
Inspection chambers provided or repaired .. ..	22
Inspection chamber covers provided .. ..	14
Self-cleansing gullies provided .. ..	14
Soil pipes provided or repaired .. ..	4
Vent pipes provided or repaired .. ..	1

Waterclosets:

New basins fixed .. ..	13
Cisterns repaired or renewed.. ..	13
New flush pipes provided .. ..	9
Floors repaired .. ..	7
W.C. seats replaced .. ..	1

Licensed Premises - Sanitary Conveniences

Existing sanitary accommodation reconstructed ..	1
New W.C. Basins fixed .. ..	2
Sanitary conveniences decorated .. ..	2

Miscellaneous

Accumulations of refuse removed .. ..	6
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SECTION "C"  
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) Water

Hitchin obtains its water from piped supplies controlled by the Lee Valley Water Company. Water is obtained from four wells: (1) Temple End, Charlton, (2) Wellhead, (3) Oughton Head, and (4) Offley Bottom. The latter two are situated in the rural district just outside the urban boundary. An adequate supply was maintained from the above sources and no restrictions were necessary during the year. The water is satisfactory in quality. One hundred and fifty-nine bacteriological and five chemical samples of the water supplied in the district were taken during the year and examined at the Company's own laboratory. All the samples were found to be satisfactory. The water from the wells is hard and, therefore, no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency. No fluoridation is carried out to the water supplies.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the house is 9,578 serving approximately 29,065 persons.

In the case of fifteen houses the water supply is provided outside the house in an outbuilding.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage

Extensions to the soil sewers were carried out on the Fairview Estate and in Walsh Close, Oughton Head Lane and Eynsford Court. During the year storm water sewers in Brand Street, Wymondslay Road and Old Hale Way were renewed.

2. Rivers and Streams

No action required by this department.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation

The whole of the district is provided with waterclosets connected to the Council's sewers, with the exception of a small number of houses which discharge to cesspools. There are a few outlying premises provided with dry closets.

(ii) Public Cleansing-Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse disposal is to become a function of the Hertfordshire County Council on April 1st 1974. Because in the near future refuse disposal points may be outside Hitchin it is the policy of the Council to gradually replace three open lorries, used for paper sack collection, by three purpose made refuse vehicles. A second refuse vehicle was obtained during the year and the third will be purchased in 1973.

In accordance with the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, the Council have designated the Refuse Tip, Wallace Way, as the place where persons may tip refuse, other than business refuse, free of charge.

The Council also undertake the collection of bulky items of household refuse, and one vehicle and driver are employed almost full time on this service.

### 3. (iii) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Ninety-six premises received a general inspection during the year and three hundred and fifty-seven visits were made.

Works carried out during 1972 were:

Cleanliness improved .. .. .	29
Thermometers provided .. .. .	4
Means of lighting provided or improved .. .. .	16
Floors and steps improved .. .. .	48
First aid boxes provided .. .. .	3
Washing facilities improved .. .. .	21
Hot and cold water provided .. .. .	11
Sanitary conveniences improved .. .. .	5
Soap and towel provided .. .. .	11
Abstract of Act provided .. .. .	19
Ventilation improved .. .. .	11
Accommodation for clothing provided .. .. .	3
Heating improvements .. .. .	2

#### Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	No. of persons Employed
Offices	2,261
Retail Shops	1,141
Wholesale archouse	94
Catering Establishments	172
Canteens	29
Total	3,697
Total Males	1,565
Total Females	2,132

#### Accidents

Four accidents were reported under Section 48 of the Act. The accidents were found to be of a minor nature, principally due to falls.



(iv) Caravans

During 1972 one caravan site with standings for ten caravans closed down. At the end of the year seven licences were in force authorising the use of land as sites for seventy-six caravans.

(v) Clean Air

Six notifications of new boiler installations were received during the year. Five of the installations were for space heating of shops, warehouses and offices and the other to produce process steam for a dry cleaning establishment. All the installations were small, not exceeding one and a half million B.T.U's. No special provisions or requirements were necessary regarding the heights of chimneys serving boilers.

Numerous complaints were again received concerning the burning of garden refuse and factory wastes in the open air, giving rise to nuisance. These complaints tend to take up inspectors' time, and I feel as the general public becomes more environmentally conscious the numbers of complaints will increase.

(vi) Swimming Baths

There are five swimming baths in the district:

- (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a large pool and a smaller pool designed for children.
- (b) A private open-air swimming pool at the Girls' Grammar School; and
- (c) three parent/teacher association open-air pools at Purwell Primary School, St. Andrew's Primary School and Oughton Head Junior School.

Twenty samples of water in the two pools at the Council's baths were taken and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

The two pools at the public baths are filled from a main water supply and the water is heated to a temperature of 70°F. It is continuously circulated and purified by pressure sand filtration and chlorination. The filtration plant has a turnover period of about four hours.

The County Health Department is responsible for sampling the pool water at the Grammar and Primary Schools.

(vii) Inspection of Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses registered in Hitchin.



(viii) Noise abatement

This is another field in which public consciousness of and concern for the environment in which they live is growing. Complaints are now made to the department of noise which would have been unheeded a decade ago.

In all some twenty complaints were made concerning noise from six industrial premises.

All six were considered to be giving rise to nuisance and in five of the cases an informal approach to the respective managements resulted in action being taken to abate the nuisances. This was carried out either by re-siting or insulating the offending equipment.

The sixth case was referred to in the last annual report. In this case acoustic consultants were engaged. Their recommendations were received during the early part of the year and were largely implemented. Due to delays in securing special equipment it was late Autumn before the works were completed. As complaints of noise from this source generally occur during the summer it will be next year before it is known how effective the works have been.

A number of complaints were also made regarding noise from pneumatic drills and compressors used in road works and building operations. A reduction in noise level is obtained by the use of mufflers but even so the noise level from these appliances is still considerable.

SECTION "D"  
HOUSING

1.

Unfit Houses

Three clearance areas comprising twenty-two houses in Dacre Road were declared under the provisions of Part 3 of the Housing Act, 1957.

The areas, together with contiguous houses were subsequently the subject of two compulsory purchase orders involving twenty-five houses.

Two houses were represented under Part 2 of the Housing Act, 1957, in one case a closing order was made and in the other an undertaking to make the premises fit for human habitation was accepted by the Council.

2.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Routine inspection of these houses continued throughout the year, and the policy of making Directions under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1961 was continued.

3.

Improvement Grants

(1)	Number of discretionary improvement grants made	2
(2)	Number in (1) above made to owner/occupier	1
(3)	Number of houses where discretionary improvement works completed .. .. .	2
(4)	Number of standard improvement grants made	38
(5)	Number in (4) above made to owner/occupiers	30
(6)	Number of houses where standard improvement grant works completed .. .. .	36

SECTION "E"  
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

In accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations three premises are registered as dairies. One of the dairies carries out the pasteurising and bottling of milk using the H.T.S.T. method of pasteurisation. The two remaining dairies are used as milk stores. There are also four distributors of milk registered under the Regulations. Inspections of the foregoing dairies were made during the year.

During the year fifteen samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination with the following results, the majority being bottled milk taken in course of delivery to the consumer.

No. of Samples	Class of Milk	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Percentage Satisfactory.
		Satisfied.	Failed	Satisfied.	Failed.	
9	Pasteurised	9	-	9	-	100%
		Turbidity Test Satisfied. Failed.				
6	Sterilised	6	-			100%

(b) Meat and Foods

There are no slaughterhouses in the district licensed by the Council nor are there any poultry processing premises in the area.

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food preparing premises where the following quantities of foodstuffs were found to be unsound and unfit for food, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

Meat from Butchers' Shops

Beef .. .. .	140 lb.
Pork .. .. .	64 lb.

General

Miscellaneous tinned and packed foods	806 lb.			
Miscellaneous tinned meats .. ..	148 lb.			
Chickens .. .. .	38 lb.			
Miscellaneous Fish .. .. .	48 lb.			
	<hr/>			
	1244 lb.=	11	0	12

cwt.    qrs.    lb.

(c) Imported Food Regulations 1968

Where imported food is unloaded in the district of a port health or local authority, and it is considered that any examination of the food for the purposes of the above regulations should be deferred until the food reaches a specified place of destination in England or Wales, the authority is required to notify the receiving authority that the food has not been examined under the regulations at the port of entry. The receiving authority then becomes responsible for the enforcement of the regulations in relation to that food.

During the year notifications were received from port health authorities that 261 containers of meat (country of origin Eire) were to be delivered to Stuart Meats Ltd., Hitchin. The contents of these containers comprising the following were examined in accordance with the regulations.

27,119 pigs  
537 pork pieces  
4,358 quarters of beef

Six hundred and ninety-five pound of pork were surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

(d) Food Complaints

During the year the department received nineteen complaints in respect of various foodstuffs. Seventeen investigations were carried out to determine the source of and ascertain the reasons for the complaints and to ensure that all necessary steps were taken by the firms concerned to prevent any recurrence.

The following table gives details of some of the complaints. It is the department's policy in every case where contraries are found in food etc., to inform the complainant of the action taken.



(d) Food Complaints (cont'd)

No.	Commodity	Nature of Complaint
1.	Tin of Chopped Pork.	Black specks in meat.
2.	Tin of Minestrone Soup.	Foreign body in tin.
3.	Pork Pie.	Mouldy.
4.	Meat pie.	Unsound
5.	Chicken and Ham pie.	Mouldy
6.	Sausages	Sour.
7.	Slices of Beef.	Commencing decomposition.
8.	Pre-packed bacon.	Foreign body.
9.	Pre-packed Cheddar Cheese.	Mouldy.
10.	Unwrapped large white loaf.	Drawing pin in crust.
11.	Packet of Potato Crisps.	Packet contained mice droppings.
12.	Bread puddings.	Mouldy.

Complaints numbered 1, 10 and 11 were passed to the Weights and Measures Department of the Herts County Council (i.e., the Food and Drugs Authority) for them to consider whether legal action should be taken.

The Analyst's report in respect of No 1 showed that the black specks complained of were actually spices and small areas of blood stained meat.

In the case of No 10 opinion was given that there was insufficient evidence to undertake legal proceedings against the manufacturers and a warning letter was sent.

A prosecution was taken in respect of No 11 and the case was dismissed by the Justices.



(e) Ice-Cream

Premises are registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:-

2 premises - for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream.

78 premises - for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises and also to mobile vendors to enforce the provisions of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, and for the purpose of sampling.

(f) Food Hygiene

The following table gives details of food premises in the area:-

Type of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg.18 F.H. Regs. 1970	No. of Premises to which Reg. 21 applied F.H.Reg. 1970	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg.21 F.H. Regs. 1970
Wakehouses	6	6	6	6
Butchers	18	18	18	18
Catering	51	51	51	51
Confectioners	11	11	11	11
Fishmongers & Poulterers	7	7	7	7
Dried Fish	8	8	8	8
Food Factoriers	3	3	3	3
Greengrocers	14	14	14	14
Rocers				
Licensed Premises	45	45	45	45
Off Licenses	6	6	6	6
Supermarkets	7	7	7	7
Confectioners (sweets)	26	26	24	24
	241	241	239	239

cont'd.

(f) Food Hygiene (cont'd.)

Equipment

Number of premises where new equipment provided	15
equipment renovated	4
new counter tops installed	10
refrigerated display cabinets	
provided	13
new shop fronts provided	2
food storage improved	11

Food Hygiene

Number of premises where glass screening provided	11
suitable overalls and head	
covering provided	5
suitable cloakroom facilities	
provided	3
suitable sterilising agents	
provided	3
soap and towels provided	8
First-aid box provided	3
Number of rooms where walls and floors etc. cleansed	29

(g) Kitchen Utensils - Bacteriological Swabs

During 1972 visits were made to food preparing premises and thirty swabs of kitchen utensils were taken for bacteriological examination.

Each swab is cultivated for two different times and temperatures, and bacterial counts made. No official standard is laid down but a utensil is regarded as satisfactory if the average of both counts is not more than 100 organisms per utensil and faecal coliform is absent. Sixteen samples passed the unofficial standard and fourteen failed.

Utensil cleaning techniques are constantly under supervision.

(f) Food Hygiene (cont'd.)

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Premises	No.	Registered
Butchers	15	for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pickled pressed or preserved food.
Food factories	1	
Grocers	2	
Butchers	1	for the pickling of meat.
Supermarkets	1	for the pickling of meat.
Fishmongers	1	for the preservation of fish.
Grocers	3	for the cooking of ham.
Supermarkets	1	for the cooking of ham.
Grocers	1	for the roasting of chickens.
Fishmonger	1	for the roasting of chickens.
General Premises	1	for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream
Supermarkets	1	
Grocers	26	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Greengrocers	4	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Confectioners (sweets)	15	storage and sale of ice-cream.
General premises	28	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Supermarkets	5	storage and sale of ice-cream.

The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for preparation, sale, etc., of food:

Washing facilities:

Number of new wash-hand basins provided	4
defective wash-hand basins renewed	1
new glazed sinks provided	2
defective sinks renewed	3
double sink units provided	4
fitments provided with running hot and cold water	11
Trapped waste pipes provided	3
new draining boards provided	3

Structural work

Number of rooms where floor repaired or renewed	19
walls decorated	50
walls repaired or improved	20
ceilings decorated	47
ceilings repaired or renewed	16
woodwork etc. decorated	46
lighting improved	16
ventilation improved	11
new floor covering provided	10

(cont'd.)



(h) Food and Drugs Sampling

Mr. E.A. Nisbet, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Herts County Council has kindly provided me with a list of samples taken by his department in the urban district during 1972.

No. of Samples Taken	Sample	Results
2	Pork Sausages	Genuine
1	Beef Sausages	"
1	Liver Sausage	"
1	Garlic Sausage	"
1	Black Pudding	"
1	Steak and Kidney Pie	"
2	Mince and Onion Pie	"
1	Hamburgers with Onion and Gravy	"
1	Stewed Steak with Gravy	"
1	Minced Steak and Onion Filling	"
1	Partridge Pate	"
1	Turkey and Veal Loaf	"
1	Chopped Chicken in Jelly	"
1	Cured Picnic Pork	"
1	Protoveg Pork Flavour	"
1	Faggots in Gravy	"
1	Cooking Oil	"
1	Dripping	"
1	Cheese Spread with Ham	"
1	Cheese Savoury with Rice	"
1	Cheddar Cheese	"
1	Egg and Bacon	"
1	Egg and Tomato and Potato	"
1	Goulash Seasoning Mix	"
1	Deep Sea Fish Soup Mix	"
1	Go Sauce Venitienne	"
1	Pate De Canard A L' Orange	"
1	Cold Clear Consomme	"
1	Gaffelbiter in Wine Flavoured Sauce	"
1	Pain Relief Tablets	"
1	Short Pastry Mix	"
1	6 Danish Pastry	"
1	Lemon Puffs	"
1	Mixed Cereals with Fruit and Almonds	"
1	Compound Yeast Extract	"
1	Vanillin Sugar	"
1	Chocolate Blancmange Powder	"
1	Ice Cream Powder	"
1	Trimetto Chocolate Wafers	"
1	Cake Top and Filling	"
1	Creamed Rice	"
1	Fruit Dessert with Tapioca	"
1	Low Calorie Granulated Sugar	"
1	Low Calorie Demerara Sugar	"
1	Single Cream	"
2	Sweetened Grapefruit 'C'	"
1	Grapefruit Juice	"

Food and Drugs (cont'd)

No. of samples taken	Sample	Results
2	Trifles	2 small straw-berries. Poor proportion for Trifle. No full list of ingredients. Contrary to Labelling of Food Order 1953.
100	Milks	98 Genuine 2 Not Genuine





FACTORIES ACT, 1961

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

I N R E S P E C T O F T H E Y E A R 1972

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961

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PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register		Number of	
		Inspection s	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	211	42	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	7	4	-	-
TOTAL	225	49	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	9	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	4	4	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	6	6	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	20	20	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT  
OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134	
	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served. Prosecutions.
Clothing manufacture.	19	-	-	-	-

SECTION "F"

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Diseases (Corrected) Hitchin - Age Distribution.

Diseases	Total cases notified	Cases after correction	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Age unknown
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	-	-	-	1	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

HITCHIN U.D.C. - TUBERCULOSIS

No. on Register at 31st December, 1972

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	77	53	130
Non-Pulmonary	17	12	29
Totals	94	65	159

No. Removed from Register during 1972

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Deaths	2	1	-	-	3
Other (cured, re-diagnosed, transfers of area, etc.)	2	-	1	-	3
	4	1	1	-	6

Additions to Register during 1972

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
New notifications	2	-	1	-	3
Other (cases restored to Register, Transfers, etc.)	-	-	1	-	1
	2	-	1	-	4





